

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method for treating or preventing a tumor necrosis factor-mediated disease in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a 5 TNF α antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.
2. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.
3. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.
- 10 4. A method of Claim 1 wherein the tumor necrosis factor-mediated disease is selected from the group consisting of: autoimmune disease, acute or chronic immune disease, inflammatory disease and neurodegenerative disease.
5. A method of Claim 4 wherein said TNF α antagonist is administered in multiple doses.
- 15 6. A method of Claim 1 wherein said TNF α antagonist prevents or inhibits TNF α synthesis or TNF α release.
7. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNF α antagonist is a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.
8. A method of Claim 7 wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from 20 the group consisting of: pentoxifylline and rolipram.
9. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNF α antagonist is selected from the group consisting of: thalidomide and tenidap.

10. A method of Claim 6 wherein said TNF α antagonist is selected from the group consisting of: a A2b adenosine receptor agonist and a A2b adenosine receptor enhancer.

11. A method of Claim 5 wherein said TNF α antagonist is an anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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12. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNF α antibody or antigen-binding fragment is a chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment, wherein said chimeric antibody or chimeric fragment comprises a non-human variable region specific for TNF α or an antigen-binding portion thereof and a human constant region.

10 13. A method of Claim 12 wherein said chimeric antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

14. A method of Claim 13 wherein said chimeric antibody competitively inhibits binding of TNF α to monoclonal antibody cA2.

15 15. A method of Claim 13 wherein said chimeric antibody is monoclonal antibody cA2.

16. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNF α antibody is a humanized antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

17. A method of Claim 16 wherein said humanized antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

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18. A method of Claim 11 wherein said anti-TNF α antibody is a resurfaced antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

19. A method of Claim 18 wherein said resurfaced antibody binds to one or more epitopes included in amino acid residues set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2.

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20. A method of Claim 5 wherein said TNF α antagonist is a soluble TNF α receptor or functional portion thereof.

21. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNF α receptor is selected from the group consisting of: p55 TNF α receptor and p75 TNF α receptor.

5 22. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNF α receptor is a TNF α receptor multimeric molecule.

23. A method of Claim 20 wherein said soluble TNF α receptor is a TNF α receptor immunoreceptor fusion molecule.

24. A method for treating or preventing arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a TNF α antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

10 25. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

26. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.

15 27. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNF α antagonist is administered in multiple doses.

28. A method of Claim 24 wherein said TNF α antagonist prevents or inhibits TNF α synthesis or TNF α release.

20 29. A method for treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate and a TNF α antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.

30. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.

31. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.
32. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNF α antagonist is administered in multiple doses.
- 5 33. A method of Claim 29 wherein said TNF α antagonist prevents or inhibits TNF α synthesis or TNF α release.
34. A method for treating or preventing Crohn's disease in an individual in need thereof comprising co-administering methotrexate a TNF α antagonist to said individual, in therapeutically effective amounts.
- 10 35. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered simultaneously.
36. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNF α antagonist and methotrexate are administered sequentially.
- 15 37. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNF α antagonist is administered in multiple doses.
38. A method of Claim 34 wherein said TNF α antagonist prevents or inhibits TNF α synthesis or TNF α release.